software depends upon the particular application and design constraints imposed on the overall system. Skilled artisans recognize the interchangeability of hardware and software under these circumstances, and how best to implement the described functionality for each particular application.

As examples, the various illustrative logical blocks, modules, circuits, and algorithm steps described in connection with the embodiments disclosed herein may be implemented or performed with a Digital Signal Processor (DSP), an Application Specific Integrated Circuit (ASIC), a Field Programmable Gate Array (FPGA) or other programmable logic device, discrete gate or transistor logic, discrete hardware components such as, e.g., registers and First In First Out (FIFO) type, a processor executing a set of firmware instructions, any conventional programmable software module and a processor, or any combination thereof designed to perform the functions described herein. The processor may advantageously be a microprocessor, but in the alternative, the processor may be any conventional processor, controller, microcontroller, or state machine. The software modules could reside in Random Access Memory (RAM), FLASH memory, Read Only Memory (ROM), Electrically Programmable ROM (EPROM) memory, Electrically Erasable Programmable ROM (EEPROM), registers, hard disk, a removable disk, a Compact Disk-ROM (CD-ROM), or any other form of storage medium known in the art. The processor may reside in an ASIC (not shown). The ASIC may reside in a telephone (not shown). In the alternative, the processor may reside in a telephone. The processor may be implemented as a combination of a DSP and a microprocessor, or as two microprocessors in conjunction with a DSP core, etc.

The previous description of the preferred embodiments is provided to enable any person skilled in the art to make or use the present invention. The various modifications to these embodiments will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art, and the generic principles defined herein may be applied to other embodiments without the use of the inventive faculty. Thus, the present invention is not intended to be limited to the embodiments shown herein but is to be accorded the widest scope consistent with the principles and novel features disclosed herein.

What is claimed is:

1. A wireless apparatus operative to receive packet data via at least one of a first set of channels, the wireless apparatus comprising:

a processor operative to receive messages via a signaling channel and to determine target recipient information and coding information from a received message identifying a target recipient, the target recipient being at least one of a plurality of recipients, the signaling channel being separate from the first set of channels;

a data rate determination unit operative to calculate a data rate for receiving packet data over the at least one of the first set of channels in accordance with the target recipient information and the coding information, and in accordance with a calculation based on a received pilot signal, the calculation based on the received pilot signal comprising a signal-to-noise ratio calculated by the wireless apparatus; and

a transmitter operative to send the calculated data rate to a transmitting base station as a data request,

wherein the target recipient information comprises a broadcast-to-pilot ratio indicative of a total transmit power as compared to a power consumed for transmission of the received pilot signal.

2. The wireless apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a buffer coupled to the processor, the buffer operative to store packet data received via the at least one of the first set of channels; and

a decoder coupled to the processor, the decoder operative to decode data packets received if the wireless apparatus is the target recipient identified by the received message and ignore data packets if the wireless apparatus is not the target recipient.

3. The wireless apparatus of claim 1, wherein the target recipient information identifies multiple target recipients.

4. The wireless apparatus of claim 1, wherein the wireless apparatus is a mobile user terminal that is the target recipient and the received message originates from a transmitting station.

5. The wireless apparatus of claim 1, wherein the target recipient information includes a locally determined channel characteristic for at least one of the first set of channels.

6. The wireless apparatus of claim 1, wherein the data rate is a frame quality indicator.

7. The wireless apparatus of claim 1, wherein the wireless apparatus comprises one of a plurality of devices scheduled by a packet data channel to receive packet data services concurrently.

8. The wireless apparatus of claim 1, wherein the coding information is predetermined by the transmitter and is used to encode the packet data, and wherein the wireless apparatus further comprises:

a decoder coupled to the processor, the decoder responsive to the coding information to decode received packet data.

9. A wireless apparatus operative to receive packet data via at least one of a first set of channels, the wireless apparatus comprising:

means for receiving messages via a signaling channel and to determine target recipient information and coding information from a received message identifying a target recipient, the target recipient being at least one of a plurality of recipients, the signaling channel being separate from the first set of channels;

means for calculating a data rate for receiving packet data over the at least one of the first set of channels in accordance with the target recipient information and the coding information, and in accordance with a calculation based on a received pilot signal, the calculation based on the received pilot signal comprising a signal-to-noise ratio calculated by the wireless apparatus; and

means for sending the calculated data rate to a transmitting base station as a data request,

wherein the target recipient information comprises a broadcast-to-pilot ratio indicative of a total transmit power as compared to a power consumed for transmission of the received pilot signal.

10. The wireless apparatus of claim 9, further comprising:

means for storing packet data received via the at least one of the first set of channels; and

means for decoding data packets received if the wireless apparatus is the target recipient identified by the received message and ignore data packets if the wireless apparatus is not the target recipient.

11. The wireless apparatus of claim 9, wherein the target recipient information identifies multiple target recipients.

12. The wireless apparatus of claim 9, wherein the wireless apparatus is a mobile user terminal that is the target recipient and the received message originates from a transmitting station.